

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible chain guide for guiding a length of a chain that extends between spaced-apart sprockets and has chain links engageable with teeth on the sprockets, said flexible chain guide comprising:

a U-shaped body, said U-shaped body including a mounting bar having an outer end portion and an inner end portion, and an elongated flexible, resilient spring leaf having a fixed end integral with said inner end portion and an unattached free end[.];
and

a flexible, resilient, generally U-shaped metal reinforcing strip lining said U-shaped body, said reinforcing strip bearing against said spring leaf and against said inner end portion of said mounting bar to reinforce and back up said spring leaf when said spring leaf bears against the length of the chain,

wherein said spring leaf being is adapted to extend lengthwise along one side of the length of chain and to bear against and guide the length of chain to damp vibration.

2. (Currently Amended) The flexible chain guide of claim 1, wherein ~~said spring leaf is attached to a mounting bar, and said mounting bar and said spring leaf are of integral, one-piece construction and made of a plastic material.~~

3. (Original) The flexible chain guide of claim 2, wherein said plastic material is Nylon.

4. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A chain and sprocket system, comprising:
a rotatable drive sprocket having drive sprocket teeth,
a rotatable driven sprocket spaced from said drive sprocket and having driven sprocket teeth,
an endless chain for transmitting rotation of said drive sprocket to the driven sprocket, said chain extending over said sprockets and having chain links engaging the teeth on said sprockets,
said chain having first and second chain sections extending between said sprockets, one of said chain section constituting a tension side of said chain and the other of said chain sections constituting a slack side of said chain depending on the direction of rotation of said sprockets, and
a chain guide for the slack side of the chain,
said chain guide including a U-shaped body having a fixed mounting bar[[.]] having an outer end portion and an inner end portion, and an elongated flexible, resilient spring leaf having one end attached to and integral with said inner end portion of said mounting bar and an unattached free end, and a flexible, resilient, generally U-shaped metal reinforcing strip lining said U-shaped body, said reinforcing strip bearing against

said spring leaf and against said inner end portion of said mounting bar to reinforce and back up said spring leaf when said spring leaf bears against a length of the chain,

wherein said spring leaf extending extends lengthwise along the slack side of the chain and ~~bearing~~ bears against the slack side of the chain to damp vibration.

8. (Original) The chain and sprocket system of claim 7, wherein said spring leaf is flexed from its natural, free-state condition into pressure engagement with the slack side of the chain.

9. (Currently Amended) The chain and sprocket system of claim 8, wherein said body including the mounting bar and said spring leaf, is of integral, one-piece construction and made of a plastic material.

10. (Original) The chain and sprocket system of claim 9, wherein said plastic material is Nylon.

11. (Currently Amended) The chain and sprocket system of claim 10, ~~wherein said mounting bar has an inner end portion and an outer end portion, said inner end portion of said bar extending alongside said spring leaf in spaced relation thereto and cooperating with said spring leaf to define a generally U shaped recess, and a flexible, resilient generally U-shaped metal reinforcing strip lining said recess and bearing against said spring leaf and against the inner end portion of said bar to reinforce and back up and maintain said spring leaf in pressure engagement with the slack side~~

~~of said chain, and~~ further comprising fasteners that ~~securely anchoring~~ anchor said inner and outer end portions of said bar.